STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH
February 19, 2013

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House Bill 5977 An Act Requiring Prompt Disclosure of Children's Medical Test Results To Parents.

The Department of Public Health appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 5977 and offers the following comments for the Committee's consideration.

Clinical laboratories are suppliers, not health care providers. As a supplier, laboratories provide the information for the diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of any human disease or impairment, for the assessment of human health or for the presence of drugs, poisons, or other toxicological substances. Clinical laboratories that participate in the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) regulated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services are required to immediately alert the individual or entity requesting the test and, if applicable, the individual responsible for using the test results when any test result indicates an imminently life-threatening condition, or panic or alert values in accordance with §493.1291 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

While the intent of the bill may be to expedite the reporting of a child's medical test results to the child's parent or guardian, requiring that a physician be present may present an additional challenge due to physician availability. For laboratories that participate in the CLIA program, mechanisms currently exist that require immediate notification to the individual requesting the test. It is, in turn, the responsibility of the physician or ordering practitioner to then make the immediate notification to the patient and/or authorized responsible party.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.